

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A recombinant genetic construct, ~~adapted to encode~~
encoding a dengue viral genome, comprising:

~~A full genome length nucleic acid clone~~ a full-length genome of a dengue virus genome
~~having wherein the construct is modified at a 13-amino acid-encoding region just~~
proximal to the pr-M cleavage site which is devoid of negatively-charged amino acid
~~acids and contains additional positively-charged amino acid acids as compared with the~~
prototype relative to a wild-type dengue virus.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The genetic construct of claim 1, ~~comprising~~ wherein
said genetic construct comprises DNA.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus ~~having a genome~~ comprising:

~~A full genome length nucleic acid clone~~ a full-length genome of a dengue virus genome
~~having wherein the virus comprises a 13-amino acid-encoding region just proximal to~~
the pr-M cleavage site which is devoid of negatively-charged amino acid acids and
contains additional positively-charged amino acid acids ~~as compared with the~~ relative to
a wild type dengue virus.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 which contains less
prM protein on viral envelope than the prototype dengue virus due to an enhanced
internal cleavage of the prM protein.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 wherein the virus
induces infected C6/36 mosquito cell line to fuse at the neutral pH to a greater extent
than the ~~prototype dengue~~ a wild type virus. ~~Induction of infected C6/36 cell fusion by~~
~~the mutant dengue virus occurs well at 29°C, but is less efficient at 40°C.~~

Claim 6 (currently amended): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 wherein the virus is exported out of the infected cells to a lesser extent than ~~the prototype~~ a wild type dengue virus, resulting in a lower virus titer in the culture medium.

Claim 7 (new) The genetic construct of claim 1 wherein said genetic construct encodes a mutant prM protein which substantially identical to the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 8 (new): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 wherein the cell fusion by the mutant dengue virus is best at 29°C.

Claim 9 (new): A mutant dengue virus of claim 3 wherein the cell fusion by the mutant dengue virus is less efficient at 40°C.